



Custer Gallatin Forest Plan Revision Reviewers Guide to Review and Feedback On the Draft Assessment and Preliminary Need for Change

To sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Reviewers Guide to Review and Feedback

A review period is one of the best opportunities to be involved in Forest Plan Revision. Multiple additional review and comment periods exist throughout the 4-year Forest Plan Revision process.

Feedback is most useful when given in regards to each respective planning phase and document out for review. Provide feedback that is relevant or with new information and sufficient detail and rationale.

The draft Assessment of Existing Conditions and draft Preliminary Need to Change is the first official review period running from Nov. 30, 2016 to Jan. 6, 2017.

The draft Assessment Report of Existing Conditions and Preliminary Need to Change documents from our initial year of Forest Planning, provide a snapshot in time of the existing conditions across the forest. These are broad documents meant to be a starting place to develop the plan. In depth resource specialist reports provide more information on individual topics.

The Need to Change is an initial look at what is required in the new Forest Plans under the 2012 planning rule, including plan contents and new scientific information, as well as what has been identified as needing to change from public feedback and forest specialist review. It is expected other need to change items will arise and not all must be identified now.

Find Documents During Review Period by:

Visiting our Website: www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin, and clicking on Forest Plan Revision and then navigating to public involvement. Individual specialist reports are available only on the web.

Reviewing at local area libraries: 12 area libraries (plus Cooke City Chamber Desk) will have a master copy of the Assessment Report and preliminary Need for Change documents available for review, ask at reference desks.

Request CD or Hardcopy: Email request to cgplanrevision@fs.fed.us for CD (compact disc) or hardcopy (limited number of printed copies are available or call 406-587-6735).



How to Submit Feedback

To facilitate efficient analysis of feedback and information submitted, we strongly encourage you to submit feedback electronically utilizing the Comment Analysis Application Response System (CARA) – (see page 5 for details).

As part of this program a reading room of feedback received is also available for review. Feedback should include the names and addresses of reviewers.

Feedback must be postmarked by the last day of the review period. If you need assistance in submitting feedback and/or working through the electronic system, please call 406-587-6735.

Electronically: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?project=50185> (Refer to page 5 for details)

Mail or hand deliver written feedback to:

Forest Service
Attn: Forest Plan Revision
Custer Gallatin National Forest
10 E Babcock, P.O. Box 130
Bozeman, MT 59771

Where to Start:

The following pages outline the contents in the Assessment of Existing Conditions and Preliminary Need to Change documents. Different approaches can be used to review the documents.

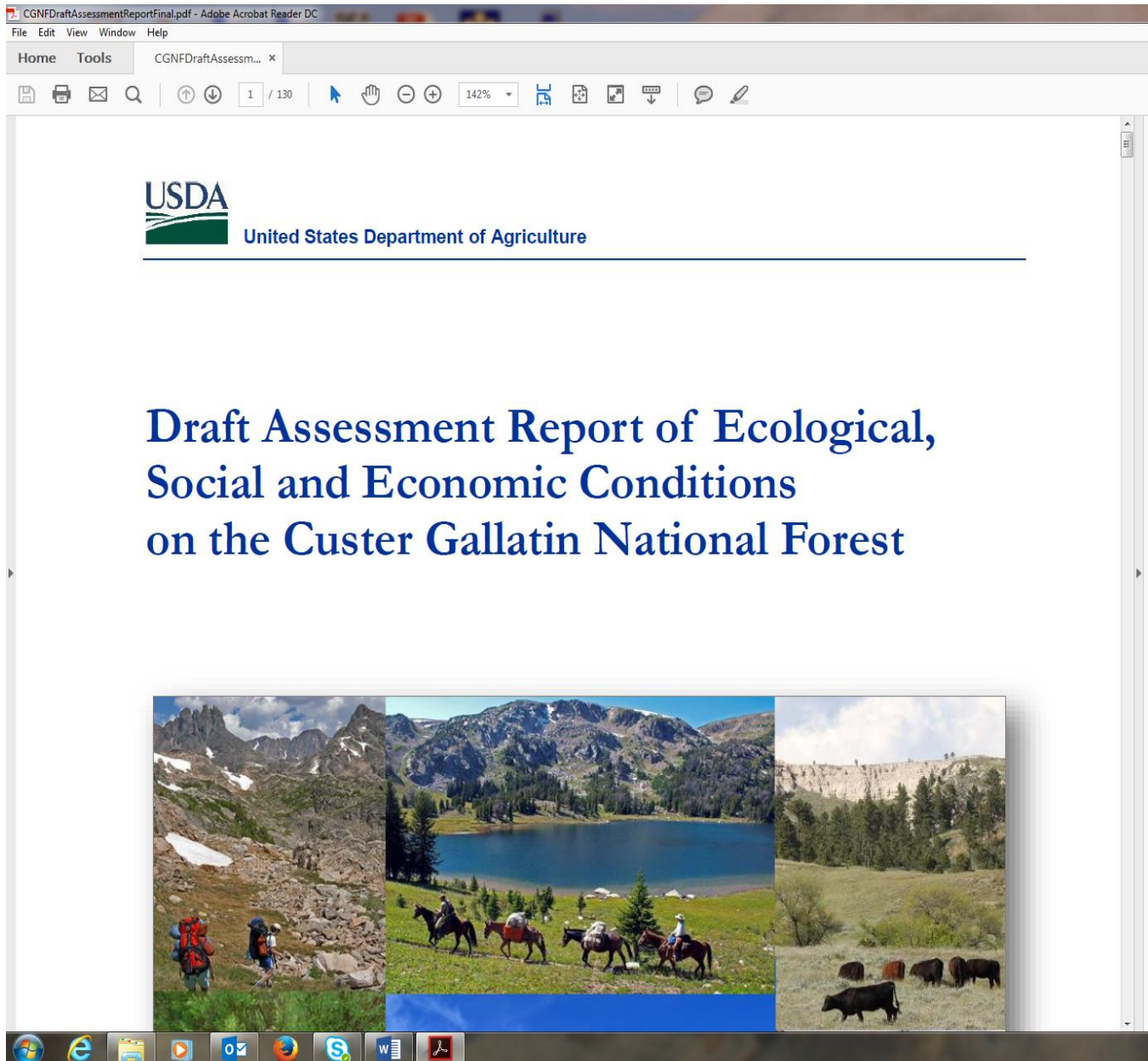
Assessment of Existing Conditions Outline

The Assessment of Existing Conditions represents a snapshot in time of the existing conditions across the Custer Gallatin National Forest. The 130 page Assessment of Existing Conditions Report summaries twenty-five specialist reports covering the following topics:

- Introduction
 - Public and Tribal Involvement
- Assessing Ecosystems and Watersheds
 - Climate
 - Soil
 - Air Quality
 - Aquatic, Watershed and Riparian Ecosystems, including aquatic potential species of conservation concern.
 - Terrestrial Vegetation Ecosystems and Species, including plant potential species of conservation concern.
 - Terrestrial Wildlife Ecosystems and Species, including wildlife potential species of conservation concern.



- Assessing Social and Economic Sustainability and Multiple Uses (continued)
 - Social and Economic Benefits and Conditions
 - Rangelands and Grazing
 - Timber
 - Renewable and Nonrenewable Energy and Mineral Resources
 - Existing Designated Areas
 - Scenery
 - Recreation Settings, Opportunities and Access
 - Infrastructure
 - Land Status and Ownership, Use and Access Patterns



How Feedback will be Used

Public feedback received during the review period may be used to modify, or make factual corrections to the Assessment of Existing Conditions or Preliminary Need to Change, information that is more pertinent to developing the plan will be carried into the next phase.

As you review the Assessment of Existing Conditions and Preliminary Need to Change documents understand that each document sets the foundation for developing the plan; they are broad documents that do not get into site specificity. The Forest Plan itself is an overarching document that provides strategic direction and guides projects that will come after its completion. The Forest Plan will not repeat direction included in Forest Service handbooks or manuals, memorandums of understanding, and regional or national directives.

Tips on Providing Feedback

Feedback is most useful when it is within the scope of the document; has a direct relationship to the Assessment of Existing Conditions or Preliminary Need to Change or upcoming development of the plan; and includes supporting reasons.

Helpful feedback or examples could include:

- *Providing new information, or a peer-reviewed published journal for a specific topic.*
- *Please review XXXX publication as it provides guidance on watersheds in this area.*
- *Documented occurrences of rare species within the planning area.*
- *Feedback on potential species of conservation concern.*
- *Feedback on science used in individual specialist reports.*

As we progress, new information will be accepted throughout the planning process, and incorporated as appropriate.

Please keep in mind the 130 page draft Assessment is a summary, if you do not find the level of detail you are interested in, please first refer to the associated specialist report for further detail prior to submitting feedback.





Other Information

Information such as desires for certain uses or land designations on the Forest will be carried into the next phase of developing a draft Forest Plan.

Information sources such as published citations that are not reflected in the Assessment will be reviewed again as the Forest develops a draft plan and when it conducts environmental analysis of the draft plan and alternatives.

Electronic Commenting System – Comment Analysis Response Application (CARA)

Provides an opportunity for the public to submit their feedback electronically and the Forest Service to gather feedback electronically, aiding in the efficiency of analyzing all information received.

All reviewers, whether they submit their information electronically or via postal mail or hardcopy will be added to the Forest Plan Revision List and likely uploaded in the CARA system for organization of the project record.

Online Feedback Website:

Go to <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?project=50185>

You may also navigate to CARA by visiting www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin, clicking on Forest Plan Revision, Public Involvement and Assessment.

There is a feedback link on the right side of the screen which will bring you to the following screen:

Organization

Title Official Representative Type

First Name Last Name

Address 1 Address 2

City State

Province/Region Zip/Postal Code

Country Email

Phone Number How would you like to be contacted about this or similar projects in the future?

Letter Text

Attachments

(Total file upload size cannot exceed 10 MBs.)





Please be as detailed and specific as possible when completing this form. The "Name and Email" fields are the only two required fields; however all of the information is useful and we encourage you to take the time preparing your feedback and include the requested information.

- ❖ Input your comment in the "Letter Text" space. Attachments can be included, but are not necessary if they are a duplicate of the feedback itself. If you decide to attach a document, Word is the preferable format. Some types of useful attachments include maps, pictures, or supportive documents that reinforce the comment you are making. The maximum file size for uploads is 10 MBs.

Prior to submitting feedback, you will have to enter the information you see in the example of the encryption box below. Once you hit "Submit", your feedback will be entered into the system.



A **final** Assessment of Existing Conditions and Preliminary Need to Change is anticipated after the New Year (2017).

For More Information

Attend a public meeting, webinar or collaborative session as planning continues in your area February – June 2017. Check the Forest website for updates on where and when meetings will be scheduled.

Contact the Forest Plan Revision Public Affairs Specialist

Mariah Leuschen-Lonergan
Forest Plan Revision, Public Affairs
Phone: (406) 587-6735
Email: mdleuschen@fs.fed.us

Plan Revision Email: cgplanrevision@fs.fed.us

Please address subject line as Assessment of Existing Conditions/Need to Change Feedback.

Website: www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin, click on Forest Plan Revision

Thank you for your interest in the Custer Gallatin National Forest, and for taking the time to review and provide feedback on our planning documents.

